

## NEW POST OFFICE SCANDALS.

## CHIEF LEWIS OF THE DIVISION OF SUPPLIES ACCUSED.

Charged With Illegally Giving Contracts to a Washington Dealer and Accepting Commissions for Doing So—Confidential Secretary Rand's Mining Company.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Another chapter was added today to the rapidly increasing scandal in the Post Office Department, when J. P. Bingham, of Philadelphia, filed charges against Mr. Lewis, chief of the Division of Supplies of the Post Office Department.

Mr. Bingham alleges, in brief, that no honest contractor has had any chance whatever to secure contracts from the supply division under Mr. Lewis's control; that Herman Baumgarten, of this city, a manufacturer of rubber stamps and printers' supplies, gave Mr. Lewis commissions on all purchases; that Baumgarten was able to secure inside information which enabled him to put in fractionally lower bids than other firms and thereby secured contracts in an illegal manner. In addition, Mr. Bingham alleges that the supplies furnished to the Post Office Department by Baumgarten were far below the standard set by the specifications and that the quality of the supplies was of the best quality.

There are now seven distinct and separate investigations going on in the department, which require the services of over a dozen inspectors and which involve nearly two important bureaus and many high officials of the service.

Postmaster-General Payne's return is awaited with impatience in all quarters affected by the scandals, as there is feeling of uncertainty as to what course he will pursue.

The wild stories that have been circulated industriously that Mr. Payne was practically shanghaied on board the Dolphin by the President's orders, or in other words, that Secretary Moody's trip was planned in order to take him out of Washington while the investigations were in progress, are declared arrant nonsense by Mr. Payne's friends.

Charges have also been made against C. T. Rand, the Postmaster-General's confidential secretary, alleging that he is the promoter of a copper mining company, and that "a ring" of influential officials, of which he is one, have used their official places to induce employees of the postal service to subscribe to the company's stock. The existence of such a copper mining company is acknowledged by officials of the Department who are officers of the company, but they insist that there has never been any attempt to float stock in the Department or induce clerks to subscribe for shares by means of threats or promises of favors.

Mr. Rand achieved considerable notoriety last winter during the coal famine as chairman of a board which awarded department contracts to a firm of which one of the department officials was a member. The bids were awarded in a slightly irregular manner, but it was afterward explained that this was because of the scarcity of coal, and the needs of the department.

## TAXING LOSS IN SPIRITS.

Supreme Court Reverses Practice of Internal Revenue Bureau.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—In declining to hear the appeal of the Government from the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals in favor of Alfred R. Mullins, the Supreme Court in effect reverses a long established practice of the Internal Revenue Bureau in the matter of taxing the "outrage" or loss in spirits through evaporation while in bonded warehouses.

The suit was brought by the taxpayer on a freight bill of whiskey bought in 1883 by the Government. When the whiskey was released for delivery to the Government it was found that the packages had lost enough, evaporated, to allow the Government to deduct the loss from the duty on the spirits.

The Government pays no tax on the spirits but pays, but as the law provides that the tax shall be paid on the amount which goes into warehouses, suit was brought against the surety for the tax on the 200 gallons which had evaporated.

The Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed that finding, but the Government carried the case finally to the Supreme Court, which yesterday refused to review the conclusions of the lower courts.

Walter Evans, as District Judge, overruled his own action as Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

## CONGRESSIONAL UNDERGROUND.

Branch Tunnel in Washington for Use of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—When the first set of plans for the tunnel by which trains will enter the proposed magnificent union station to be built in Washington was handed to the Commissioners of the District to-day, it was found that it embodied a unique feature. This is a provision for a branch tunnel to connect the main subway with the basement of the post office building, for the use of the members of the House of Representatives.

This feature of the plans is an entirely new one, and has been the subject of inquiry from Col. Biddle, the Engineer Commissioner, to Chief Engineer Brown of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and to the authority under which the proposed tunnel will be built.

If the branch tunnel is constructed Representatives who are called out of town will merely walk from the subway to the station, and from the station step on board their train, and on returning to Washington will proceed directly to the very door of the office building. It is understood that the branch tunnel was inserted in the plans at the request of the railroad companies.

## REORGANIZING THE TREASURY.

Secretary Shaw Making Changes in the Official Force.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Within a few days, or at the latest before the end of the present month, Secretary Shaw will continue his reorganization of the Treasury Department by effecting several changes in the personnel of the official force.

The Secretary intends to sweep the decks clean to the extent of placing the department on a sound basis of business efficiency, but he declared that no honest, efficient officer or employee need have any fears regarding his place in the new organization.

The retirement of Assistant Secretary Allen, which was unofficially announced several weeks ago, will probably take place about the end of April. His election as one of the vice-presidents of the Riggs National Bank of this city will occur at the annual meeting of the board of directors on April 15, and he wishes to be relieved at the Treasury as soon after that date as possible.

## CORBIN NOT WANTED IN CLUB.

## BAD FEELING AROUSED IN WASHINGTON CIRCLES.

Owing to Opposition of Metropolitan Club Members the General Withdrawal Application for Membership Has Effect on Lord Roberts's Visit—Sense of Corbin's Friends May Leave Club.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—A sensation has been caused in official and social circles here by the withdrawal of the application of Major-General Henry C. Corbin, Adjutant-General of the army, for admission to membership in the Metropolitan Club, the principal social organization of Washington, which numbers among its members President Roosevelt, Secretary Hay, ambassador and Ministers, Admiral Dewey and many distinguished men in civil and military life.

The withdrawal of Mr. Corbin's application was brought about by opposition to his admission, which the earnest efforts of many influential friends were not able to overcome.

They had also a particular purpose in view. They deemed it very desirable that Gen. Corbin should be in a position to extend the courtesies of the club to Field-Marshal Lord Roberts on his forthcoming visit to Washington.

It is reported that as a result of the opposition to the General's admission, the members of the club have been placed in a position to extend the courtesies of the club to Field-Marshal Lord Roberts on his forthcoming visit to Washington.

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## SHOT TWO AGED WOMEN.

## WOODCHOPPER ATTACKS MISS PALME AND HER Sister, OCTOBERIANS, IN THEIR HOME.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., April 7.—Miss Emilie Palmer, 29 years old, and her sister, Mrs. Ellen Brown Palmer Bancroft, aged 32, were the victims of an assault at their lonely country home in Foster, R. I., on Sunday evening, both being twice shot by a man who invaded the house at night and fired five shots point blank at the women.

John Handy, a woodchopper, has been arrested and the women have identified him as their assailant. No quarrel preceded the shooting. Emilie received a glancing shot in her hand and leg, Mrs. Bancroft received one shot in the left breast and the other glancing through the flesh below the breast.

Both women were enfeebled by recent illness, but they fought for their lives and succeeded in driving the man out of the house. They then barred the doors and sat in darkness and in fear through the night. Their plight was not discovered until to-day, when a neighbor called and found the women were not serious, except that there was a reason for fear development of blood poisoning.

No motive was known, unless it was a false rumor that a brother of the women had recently died and left them some money.

They had also a particular purpose in view. They deemed it very desirable that Gen. Corbin should be in a position to extend the courtesies of the club to Field-Marshal Lord Roberts on his forthcoming visit to Washington.

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## COST OF LIGHTING.

## Full Text of the Statement Made by Mr. John M. Bowers at Albany Yesterday on Behalf of the Lighting Company.

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